

# The Peacemakers

**Matthew 5:9** [NIV] *“Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called sons of God.”*

This must also be read *“the children of God are peacemakers,”* **not** just peace lovers.

**How do we become peacemakers?**

**Proverbs 10:12** [NIV] *“Hatred stirs up dissension, but **love covers over all wrongs.**”*

The Hebrew word translated “hatred” is “sin’âh” meaning to find utterly odious, the attitude of looking down upon or feeling beneath us.

Such an attitude towards another person will only cause dissension or strife, the very opposite to making peace.

**Philippians 2:1-5** [NIV] *“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but **in humility consider others better than yourselves.** Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”*

This is the attitude of mind, which we find is that of Jesus Christ, that will generate an atmosphere of peace.

**Proverbs 10:12** [King James] *“Hatred stirreth up strifes: **but love covereth all sins.**”*

The Hebrew word translated dissension or strife is “medân,” from a root word “dûwn” referring to litigation that is making public in the courts or revealing what is secret.

This is in complete contrast to love which covers, that is conceals, and does **not** make sins public.

The Hebrew word translated “love” is “ahâbâh” which expresses an affectionate personal relationship.

This is the equivalent to “agapé” in the Greek text that expresses the very love of God.

When we meditate on this we can see why God abhors gossip.

Notice it says **all** sins.

I expected the Hebrew word translated “sin” to be “chata” that refers to unintentional sin, the missing the mark as a result of personal weakness.

But no, the Hebrew word translated “sin” is “pasha” referring to the revolt and rebellion against God or human beings, premeditated in some cases.

To cover such sin is truly “loving our enemies” as Christ has commanded we should as His disciples.

**Matthew 5:44-48** [NIV] *“But I tell you: **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.** He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**”*

**Such covering sin and loving those who hate us is part of our becoming perfect, or mature, even as God is totally mature and perfect.**

**King David understood this.**

**Psalms 51:1 [NIV]** *“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.”*

The word for “*transgressions*” that David used was “*pasha*.” This was the only word David could use, for he had been shown by God’s prophet Nathan that God had seen his adultery with Bathsheba and the indirect murder of her husband. [See **2 Samuel 11:1-5, 14-15**]

King David also used the same Hebrew word later in his plea to God for mercy and forgiveness.

**Psalms 51:11-13 [NIV]** *“Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. **Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.**”*

The reason why David wanted forgiveness was to retain the working of God’s Holy Spirit in him, to enable him to teach others how great God’s mercy and love was towards all who had committed rebellious sins like he had.

This covering of others’ sins is **not** to let them “*off the hook*,” never to reap the result of their sins, in their physical life.

The keeping secret their sins was to build a close relationship with them so that they could learn about God’s mercy and love.

**2 Samuel 12:10-14 [NIV]** *“Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.” “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’” Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “**The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.**”*

David’s sin brought physical pain and even death to his family, even when God had forgiven him.

**God may allow us to suffer the physical effects of our sins, on ourselves and others to drive home the deadliness of sin.**

But on repentance the eternal death penalty of sin is taken away, and placed on the head of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Do we then cover our own sins?**

**Proverbs 28:13 [NIV]** *“**He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**”*

We never cover our own sins but confess them to God and forsake them.

**James 5:16 [NIV]** *“**Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.**”*

We may even confess our sins to a trusted friend, who will **not** make them public, as an additional prod to forsake our sins completely.

**Proverbs 27:5-6** [NIV] *“Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”*

The covering of sins does **not** eradicate the needed rebuke of others who we see sinning or doing things that may lead them into a sinful situation.

This also is showing love that can lead to making a peaceful relationship.

**We find the same teaching as we have found in Proverbs in the writing of the New Testament apostles.**

**1 Peter 4:8** [NIV] *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”*

The Greek word translated “love” is “*agapé*.” A spontaneous love, irrespective of the rights or response of the person who is the object of that love, a sacrificial love where the selfish desires are sacrificed in order to show that love to others.

**1 Corinthians 13:6-7** [NIV] *“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

The Greek word translated “protects” is “*stēgō*” meaning to cover with silence.

**James 5:19-20** [NIV] *“My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”*

This covering of sins is a way in which peace is produced.

**God’s Kingdom, created family, is a kingdom where peace will reign.**

God gives us **now** the opportunity to become peacemakers in preparation to our future job of working alongside Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to bring eternal peace to all of humanity.

**What have we learnt about becoming peacemakers?**

1. Approach the situation in a humble attitude.
2. Do **not** let anyone else know about the other person’s sin.
3. Do **not** be selective of those we seek to have a peaceful relationship with.
4. Remember that God’s “*agapé*” love and mercy extends to all sinners.
5. Love and mercy that leads to peaceful relationships must be our way of life, if we are to be children of our Creator God.
6. Do **not** delay, become a peacemaker, but humbly seek to restore a peaceful relationship with someone with whom we do **not** have a peaceful or loving relationship.

**Proverbs 15:1** [NIV] *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*

Here is a good starting point.

**Proverbs 15:18** [NIV] *“A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.”*

Before we respond to any hurtful remark, remember that God loves this hot-tempered person and Jesus Christ died to offer them forgiveness.

Consider this before we open our mouth to reply.

**Proverbs 25:21-22 [NIV]** *“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.”*

Such a response will stop a hostile person in their tracks.

The “*burning coals*” refers to the making pliable even the hardest steel-like hostile attitude.

Just a few proverbs to help you on your journey as a peacemaker, there are many more for you to find.